AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claim 5, 16 and 23 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims to read as follows. Deletions are depicted in ~~strikeout~~ text, and additions are underlined.

1. Cancelled

2. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 10, wherein the elongate portions extend generally parallel to a longitudinal axis of the elongate body.

3. (Original) The device of Claim 2, wherein the first and second portions are arranged concentrically.

4. (Original) The device of Claim 3, wherein the second portion is arranged concentrically around the first portion.

5. Cancelled.

6. (Currently Amended) The device of Claim 10, wherein the first and second portions are unitarily formed~~rigidly connected to one another~~.

7. Cancelled.

8. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 10, wherein the first lumen is connectable to a source of vacuum capable of drawing a vacuum through the first lumen.

9. (Original) The device of Claim 8, wherein the wound closure member is held onto the first lumen distal opening by the vacuum.

10. (Currently Amended) A tissue closure device, comprising:

an elongate body having a first portion and a second portion that are rigidly connected to one another so as to always move as a single elongate unit, each portion having a distal end, the portions arranged generally adjacent one another so that the first portion distal end is disposed a minimum distance distal from the second portion distal end;

the first portion comprising a first lumen having a first lumen opening through the distal end;

a wound closure member releasably connected to the first portion distal end, the wound closure member configured to cover at least a portion of the lumen opening;

the second elongate portion having a lumen, a lumen distal opening being at the second portion distal end;

wherein the second portion lumen distal opening is spaced from the wound closure member; and

a release rod, the first lumen being adapted to slidably receive the release rod therein.

11. (Previously Presented) A tissue closure device, comprising:

an elongate body having a first portion and a second portion, each portion having a distal end, the portions arranged generally adjacent one another so that the first portion distal end is disposed a minimum distance distal from the second portion distal end;

a wound closure member releasably connected to the first portion distal end;

the second elongate portion having a lumen, a lumen distal opening being at the second portion distal end;

wherein the second portion lumen distal opening is spaced from the wound closure member; and

a flow guide comprising a flow guide body configured to be movably connected to the tissue closure device elongate body, a distal end of the flow guide body adapted to fit partially circumferentially around the elongate body and to define a flow path generally transverse to a longitudinal axis of the elongate body.

12. (Original) The device of Claim 11, wherein the flow guide comprises at least two guide tabs, and the flow path is defined between the guide tabs.

13. (Original) The device of Claim 11, wherein the flow guide is longitudinally movable relative to the elongate body.

14. (Original) The device of Claim 11, wherein the flow guide is rotationally movable relative to the elongate body.

15. (Original) The device of Claim 11 additionally comprising a lock adapted to releasably secure the flow guide in a position relative to the elongate body.

16. Cancelled.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The device of Claim 16,~~A tissue closure device, comprising:

an elongate body having a first portion and a second portion, each portion having a distal end, the portions arranged generally adjacent one another so that the first portion distal end is disposed a minimum distance distal from the second portion distal end;

a wound closure member releasably connected to the first portion distal end;

the second elongate portion having a lumen, a lumen distal opening being at the second portion distal end;

wherein the second portion lumen distal opening is spaced from the wound closure member; and

an organ stabilizer configured to be movably attached to the elongate body;

wherein the organ stabilizer device comprises an elongate stabilizer body including a lumen having a distal opening, the lumen being connectable to a source of vacuum, the distal opening adapted to be engagable with bodily tissue to secure the tissue in place with the vacuum.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The device of Claim 16,~~ A tissue closure device, comprising:

an elongate body having a first portion and a second portion, each portion having a distal end, the portions arranged generally adjacent one another so that the first portion distal end is disposed a minimum distance distal from the second portion distal end;

a wound closure member releasably connected to the first portion distal end;

the second elongate portion having a lumen, a lumen distal opening being at the second portion distal end;

wherein the second portion lumen distal opening is spaced from the wound closure member; and

an organ stabilizer configured to be movably attached to the elongate body;

wherein the organ stabilizer device comprises an elongate stabilizer body having a ridge, and the ridge is configured to engage the tissue closure device elongate body so that the closure device elongate body is spaced from the elongate stabilizer body.

19. (Original) The device of Claim 18, wherein the stabilizer body comprises a lumen having a distal opening adapted to be engagable with bodily tissue.

20. (Original) The device of Claim 19, wherein the stabilizer body comprises a plurality of lumens.

21. (Currently Amended) A device for at least partially closing an opening in tissue, comprising:

an elongate body comprising a first lumen having ~~an~~ a first distal opening and a second lumen having a second distal opening, the lumens arranged so that a longitudinal space is defined between the first and second distal openings; and

a wound cover member releasably connected to the body at the first distal opening;

wherein the first distal opening is disposed distal of the second distal opening, and the first and second lumens do not communicate with one another.

22. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 21, wherein the second lumen is configured to communicate a flowing fluid therethrough.

23. Cancelled.

24. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 21 additionally comprising a release rod sized and configured to slide through the first lumen and into contact with the wound cover member.

25. (Previously Presented) A device for at least partially closing an opening in tissue, comprising:

an elongate body having a distal end;

a wound cover material releasably connected to the body at the distal end; and

a tissue stabilizer connected to the elongate body so as to be longitudinally movable relative to the elongate body;

wherein the elongate body is configured to push the wound cover material onto a body tissue at a desired location; and

wherein the tissue stabilizer is configured to apply traction in a direction generally opposed to the elongate body to a body tissue at a location at or adjacent the location of the wound cover material.

26. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 25, wherein the tissue stabilizer comprises a lumen, and the lumen is selectively connected to a source of suction.

27. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 26, wherein the tissue stabilizer comprises a plurality of lumens.

Please add the following new claims:

28. (New) The device of Claim 26, wherein the elongate body comprises a distal opening at the distal end, and a lumen communicating with the distal opening, the lumen being selectively attachable to a source of vacuum, and the wound cover material is releasably held onto the distal opening by the vacuum.

29. (New) The device of Claim 28, wherein the elongate body comprises a second lumen having a distal opening that is spaced proximally from the first lumen distal opening.

30. (New) The device of Claim 17, wherein the first and second portions are arranged adjacent one another and are rigidly connected so as to move as a single unit.

31. (New) The device of Claim 30, wherein the first and second portions are unitarily formed.

32. (New) The device of Claim 30, wherein the organ stabilizer extends circumferentially around the elongate body.

33. (New) The device of Claim 19, wherein the organ stabilizer body extends circumferentially around the elongate body.